

**Version with markings to show changes**

**In the specification:**

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12 has been amended as follows:

Locating a vacant parking space is [often] an ordeal that causes frustration for many commuters. Even if [where] a commuter pays to enter a parking lot, valuable time is consumed searching for a parking space within the parking lot. It seems that parking lots that service hospitals, airports, mass transit [transmit] stations, entertainment forums, shopping malls, and the like are always the most crowded, when time is the most crucial. As urban and suburban regions become more populated, finding a vacant parking space will become increasingly [more] difficult for commuters.

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24 has been amended as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 5,432,508 to Jackson ('508 patent) discloses a technique for informing vehicle operators of available parking spaces in a parking garage. According to the '508 patent, light sources mounted above the parking spaces and at the entrance to the parking garage are used to indicate the location of available spaces. The '508 patent also discloses a computer which collects information concerning parking availability and communicates the information to prospective users. Namely, a person can place a telephone call [in to the computer through telephone] and receive a voice message indicating whether the parking lot is full [or not].

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3 has been amended as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 5,940,481 to Zeitman ('481 patent) discloses a parking management control system used to report parking, monitor parking and reserve parking spaces. According to the '481 patent, a user reports parking in a particular parking facility to a central control unit using a personal non-dedicated mobile communications device. The central control unit then confirms whether parking in the particular parking facility is authorized or not. The central control unit also generates a report indicating which parking facilities are supposed to be vacant for law enforcement officials so that unauthorized parking can be ticketed. The '481 patent also

discloses that a user can reserve a desired parking facility by selecting a desired parking facility from a map provided from the central control unit. If [The next time] a potential user, other than the registered user, communicates a request [wishes] to park in the reserved parking facility, [and communicates with] the central control unit transmits a response to [,] the potential user indicating [receives a message] that the parking facility is [already] reserved and not authorized for use.

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14 has been amended as follows:

As indicated by the broken lines, the controller 11 may be either internal or external to the server 12. An example a controller 11 is a software application loaded on the server 12 for commanding and directing communications enabled by the server 12. Other examples include a program, a piece of code, an instruction, a device, a computer, a computer system, or a combination thereof, for independently or collectively instructing the server 12 to interact and operate as described herein. The controller 11 may be embodied permanently or temporarily in any type of machine, component, and/or equipment.[,] The controller 11 transmits commands to the server through a first connection 17, which may be any communication path capable of carrying commands between the controller 11 and the server 12.

The paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3 has been amended as follows:

The first parking lot 13 and the second parking lot 14 may be any parking lot that services a hospital, airport, mass transit [transmit] station, entertainment forum, shopping mall, department store, grocery store, or the like. Each of the first parking lot 13 and the second [fourth] parking lot 14 are equipped with detectors (not shown) for detecting the status information for each of the parking lots 13,14. The [Such] detectors may be any type of device capable of ascertaining whether a parking space is occupied or not. The detected status information includes at least the location of vacant parking spaces within the parking lots 13, 14. The status information [may], however, may include the occupancy status of every parking space within the parking lots 13, 14 or any other information concerning the status of the parking lots 13,14. The first parking lot and second parking lot are also equipped with communication devices (not shown) for communicating the status information to the server 12. The [Such]